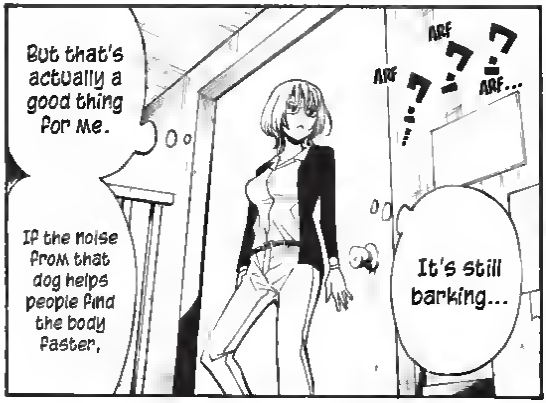
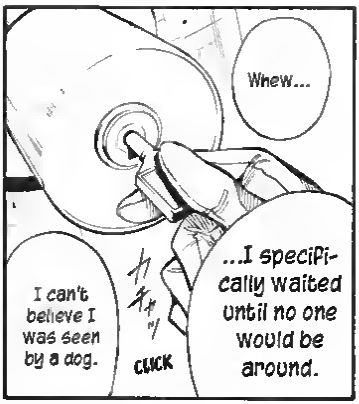
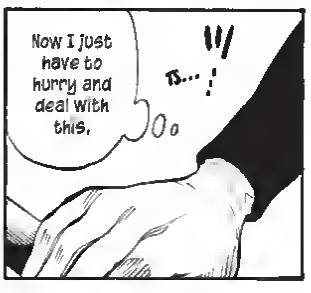
Case 4: ⚜ An Equation for Murder, Part 2


But that's actually a good thing for me.
If the noise from that dog helps people find the body faster,
ARF
ARF
ARF...
It's still barking...

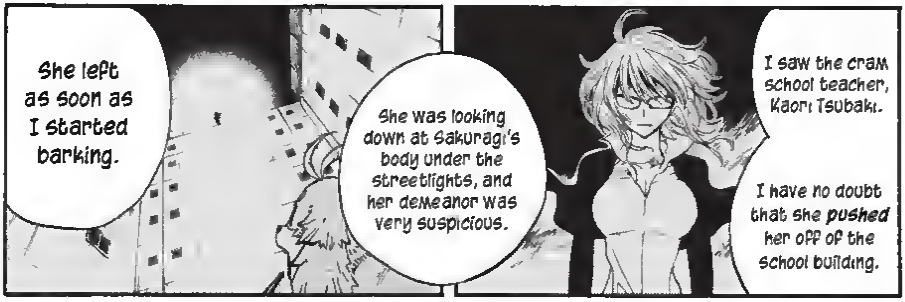

Whew...
...I specifically waited until no one would be around.
CLICK
I can't believe I was seen by a dog.

THAT'S ONE LESS THING I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.
I WON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE ALL NIGHT TO SOLIDIFY MY ALIBI.

then kill time in my office...
until my alibi is airtight.


Now I just have to hurry and deal with this.
TS...!

MAIKA SAKURAGI THREW HERSELF OFF A BUILDING?
ARF!
No! What I saw was *murder!*
ARE YOU SERIOUS, SHERDOG?!
DASH

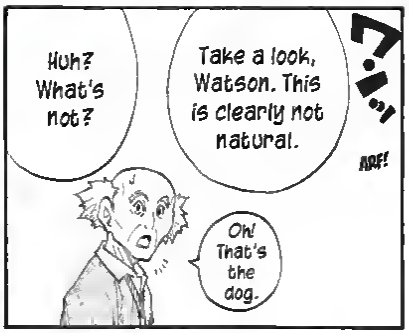

She left as soon as I started barking.
She was looking down at Sakuragi's body under the streetlights, and her demeanor was very suspicious.
I saw the cram school teacher, Kaori Tsubaki.
I have no doubt that she *pushed* her off of the school building.

...
Yet she remained unperturbed. ...In fact, I could sense a singular hostility about her.
I am certain she was looking directly at where Maika Sakuragi fell.
From that distance, she would have had a clear view of the girl lying on the ground.
D...doesn't that just make her a witness?
STAMP
STAMP
STAMP
STAMP
Takeru! What's going on? Huff, huff...
No.

!!
TEP
I heard a dog barking, so I came to look and found her here...
Do you think it was suicide?

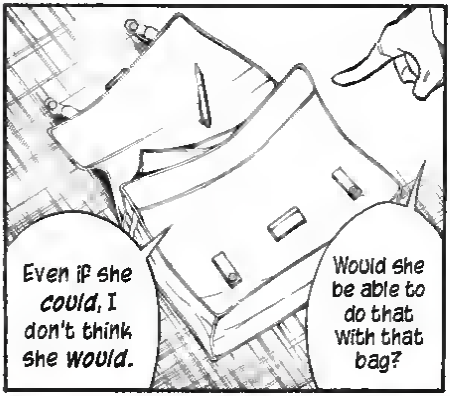
Sakurgi-san...?
N...no.
...!

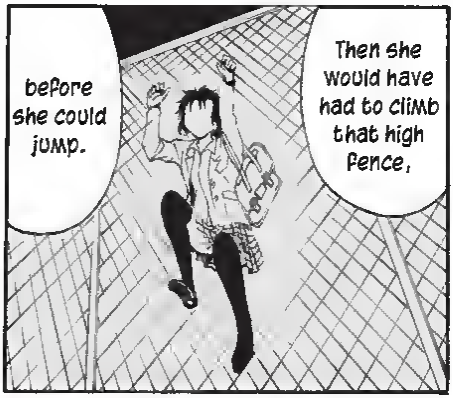
ARF
ARF
?!?
!
Y...you're right. ...That doesn't make sense!


Huh? What's not?
Take a look, Watson. This is clearly not natural.
?!..!
ARF!
Oh! That's the dog.

Doesn't this look weird to you?
Just give me a minute!
What?
Hey, go home! We don't need any rubber-neckers!
In that case...
Well, look.
The pencils and notebooks that fell out of her bag are on top of the body.
So?
That means she would have had to jump off of *that* building.
But...
The roof on this building is slanted. It's not really a good place for jumping.
Look up there.

The windows are all closed.
So she would have had to jump off of the roof.
Yes...she probably would.


Would she be able to do that with that bag?
Even if she could, I don't think she would.


Then she would have had to climb that high fence,
before she could jump.

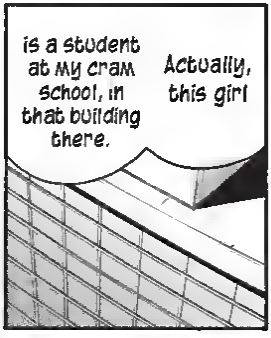
If she did that,
Then her notebooks couldn't have fallen on top of her.

Maybe she threw the bag down first.

What?!
I think she might have been pushed.

That... that's true.

But then how do you think she fell to her death?
...


Actually, this girl is a student at my cram school, in that building there.

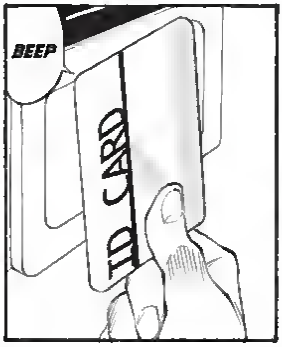
I even talked to her a bit today...
She really didn't strike me as someone who was thinking of killing herself...
Hey, you! You just groped me!!

Then I'll have to call the precinct right away
Hmm...
No, wait a second!

Do you know who did this?
The killer...?
won't escape before your backup comes
I want to make sure the killer...
Question witnesses? Now, you see here...
...
Just one of you officers. ...Would you be so kind?
Yes, I have an idea... So I'd like you to come question witnesses with me.
And not just my sister—my whole family is in law enforcement.
They told me that when I find myself in these situations, I should always help the police investigate. ...Please!
HMMM...
オーホホホ♡
OOOH HO HO HO HO
is an inspector in Violent Crimes.
Um, actually, my sister
ARF!
You know what to do, Watson!
Oh, right!
!
B-DMP
ドキ...
BAM
ばーん

!
Thank you so much! I mean it!
BOW BOW
ペコペコ
AHEM!
コホン
This is only until the detective gets here from the precinct, all right?
If she finds out I used her again, my sister's gonna kill me.

Keep up the good work.
Th... thanks...


BEEP
ID CARD

Oh... right.
Oh! You'll need to use your ID cards.

But hey, Sherdog.
...Yeah.

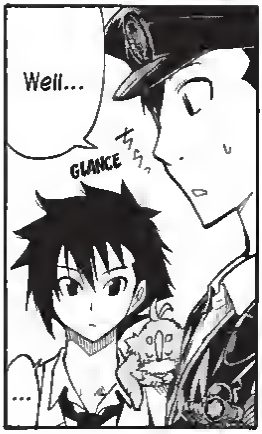
And they agreed to follow up on that clue.
Now it's a race against time.
It's lucky we could get the police to cooperate, Watson.
They're much better than a certain bandwagon detective I could think of

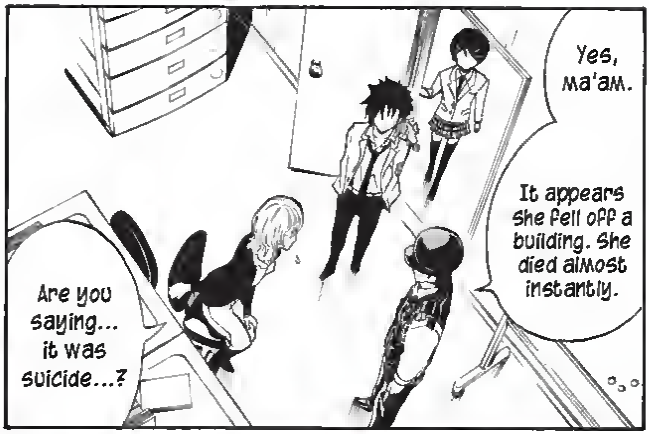
...How-ever.
...Therein lies our problem, Watson.

Together, you and I...
Will unmask our killer— the teacher Tsubaki.

There are ten whole meters
between the cram school building
and the place Sakuragi fell.

...Yeah!
...
What?
...Sakuragi-san?


Well...
GLANCE
...


Are you saying... it was suicide...?
Yes, ma'am.
It appears she fell off a building. She died almost instantly.

...Tsubaki-sensei.
What is it, Wajima-kun?

ARF
Get her, Watson!!

She started talking like she couldn't go on living anymore...I tried to comfort her... then I sent her home
I was counseling her about her sudden drop in grades. ...She broke down in tears
Now that you mention it...I did see her earlier.
I never dreamed... she would kill herself...

I'm pretty sure
Sakuragi-san didn't kill herself.
I mentioned this to the police, but...
What?
...What do you mean?
I don't know about that.
Huh?
But all because the contents of her bag were on top of the body?
CREAK
...I see.

So she could take it all down with her...
She was worried about entrance exams
Maybe out of some sense of revenge.
She climbed up that wire fence desperately clinging to that bag and all the study supplies inside it.
Then the contents bounced off the ground,

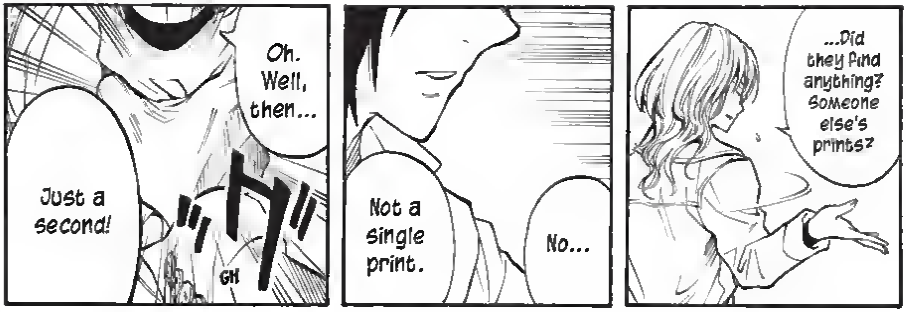
But in the same vein, we can't completely rule out the possibility of murder, can we?
Hmm... Maybe so.

You can't completely rule out the possibility
And landed on top of her.

That's true.
...
TWITCH
...All right. I'll help you.
CLATTER
カラ～ン
Y...yeah. Right.
We came to ask you if you noticed anything out of the ordinary. Right, officer?
So, since you were still here at the cram school,
...
The first question is what time did Sakuragi-san leave?
Let's go check the ID card records at the entrance.

I see... Then if this was a murder,
she would have had to have been taken by someone after that, and pushed off the building next door.
...Is that what you're assuming?
...
She left the building at 7:45...
Reception
Hmm... Maika Sakuragi-san...?
Reception
What?
I BELIEVE YOU!
It might not have been the building next door.
フルフル
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHER-DOG...
Maybe someone pushed her
from the roof of this building.

You can't draw conclusions from unprovable theories.
Isn't that what I always tell you in physics class?
Oh, I can prove it.
...
Then what about the record of her leaving?
Maybe they took her ID card,
Swiped it by the sensor, and then put it back.
My, my.
HEH
I asked the police a little while ago.
And they checked Sakuragi-san's ID card for prints.
B-DRIP
With fingerprints.
TWITCH
!


...Did they find anything? Someone else's prints?
No...
Not a single print.
Oh. Well, then...
Just a second!
GH

Don't you think it's strange?
The ID card was in a passcase.
When Sakuragi-san put it in the case,
her fingerprints would have gotten on the card.

GASP

...and, to make it look like Sakuragi-san had left the building,
they slipped into the crowd and secretly held it up to the sensor.
So maybe...
The murderer took the card...
But we didn't find a single print.
That's unnatural.
I'm not so sure...
It's possible she happened to be wearing gloves when she put the card in the passcase.
...
BAM
Then after that, they would have wiped the fingerprints.

She would have gotten the card in April, the month she started cram school.
Without touching the card once since she got it?
Would you wear gloves in April?
...
Little brat!